

2.6 OUTCOME 6: INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCE – AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION AND TRAINING IS RECOGNISED AS WORLD CLASS AND IS GLOBALLY CONNECTED

The Australian Government requires agencies to measure their intended and actual performance in terms of outcomes. Government outcomes are the results, impacts or consequences of actions by the Government on the Australian community. Agencies are required to identify the output groups which demonstrate their contribution to Government outcomes over the coming year.

Each outcome is described below by output groups, specifying the performance indicators and targets used to assess and monitor the performance of the department in achieving government outcomes.

Outcome 6 Strategy

The international education and training industry is a major export industry. It contributes \$11.7 billion per year to the Australian economy, making it Australia's third largest export earner. It is Australia's largest services export. However, the benefits flow far beyond this. Internationalisation brings intellectual, social, economic and security benefits for Australia, and the Australian Government's aim is to encourage and facilitate international education and training engagement in line with the national interest.

International engagement in education contributes towards Australia's broader national strategic interests. It underpins foreign relations and trade efforts, opening up opportunities for exporting and building networks for trade and investment, diplomatic relations and international cooperation. It also builds linkages between Australian and overseas institutions and enriches the experience of domestic students, researchers and teaching staff. Such engagement further provides Australia with a role in educating the next generation of world leaders. The social and economic benefits of international engagement flow to individuals, institutions and the wider community.

Education is becoming more globally connected and increasingly competitive. Australia's international education and training industry must connect with the rest of the world to remain at the forefront of international developments. International education links help Australia build a world class education system by offering continuous learning opportunities. Through a strategically focussed approach we can benchmark against and adopt world's best practice to enhance our domestic education and training systems. Students today have more choice than ever before, and are becoming better informed about their options. They want high quality and widely recognised qualifications.

International students graduating with Australian qualifications make a significant contribution to Australia's workforce. Last year approximately 15,000 recently graduated international students successfully applied for skilled migration in Australia.

DEEWR Budget Statements – Outcomes & performance – Outcome 6

In 2006-07, 46 per cent of skilled migrants to Australia held an Australian qualification. As Australia's skills needs continue to grow, these students are ideally placed to meet projected skills deficits.

Ensuring that Australia's international education system continues to be globally competitive and high quality is a crucial element of the Government's Education Revolution. The Government is committed to:

- ensuring that Australia's education system is globally relevant and influential with world leading curricula across all stages of education and training
- making Australia one of the most highly educated and skilled nations.

Challenges which must be faced to secure a sustainable future for Australia's international education and training industry are:

- a coherent policy framework
- efficient and effective quality assurance arrangements
- internationally relevant and highly regarded qualifications
- appropriate investment
- meeting students' and employers' expectations.

Effectiveness in achieving Government objectives is measured through effectiveness indicators in Table 2.6A. Success is indicated by increasing trends in international student enrolments at universities and those studying for higher level certificates. A world class, high quality, globally connected and influential education and training system will continue to attract international students wanting to study for high level qualifications with Australian providers. Similarly increasing trends in the level of national income and the level of employment associated with international education and training make an important contribution to workforce productivity.

Outcome 6 Resource statement

Table 2.6 provides additional detail of Budget appropriations and the total resourcing for Outcome 6.

Table 2.6: Total resources for Outcome 6

| Outcome 6: International Influence – Australian education and training is recognised as world class and is globally connected | 2007-08 Estimated actual (\$'000) | 2008-09 Total estimate of available resources (\$'000) |
|--|--|---|
| Administered Items: | | |
| Ordinary Annual Services | | |
| International Education and Training | 33,790 | 38,828 |
| Assessment Subsidy for Overseas Trained Professionals | 728 | 743 |
| Total Administered | 34,518 | 39,571 |
| Departmental Outputs: | | |
| Output 6.1 - Policy Services | 9,010 | 8,638 |
| Output 6.2 - Program Management | 22,307 | 21,383 |
| Output 6.3 - Service Delivery | 1,179 | 1,130 |
| Revenue from other sources | 17,113 | 16,463 |
| Special Account | | |
| International Marketing of Education Special Account | 4,400 | 4,400 |
| Other Trust Monies | 2,709 | 2,709 |
| Services for Other Government and Non-Agency Bodies | 1,418 | 1,418 |
| Total Departmental | 58,136 | 56,141 |
| Total resources for Outcome 6 | 92,654 | 95,712 |
| | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
| Average staffing level (number) | 200 | 190 |

Note: Departmental Appropriation splits and totals, by outcome and output, are indicative estimates and may change in the course of the budget year as government priorities change.

Contributions to Outcome 6

Overview of Outputs

The department's strategic priorities are focussed on advancing Australia's interests in international education through greater multilateral, regional and bilateral connection globally. The outputs (administered and departmental) purchased with the funding allocated to these priorities are reported in Tables 2.6B and 2.6C. In summary, the priorities and relevant outputs which support Outcome 6 are:

- Contribute to a world class Australian education and training system, for example by offering an estimated 1658 international scholarships and fellowships in 2008-09
- Create the environment for a sustainable, globally connected and internationally influential education and training system by supporting 700 industry seminars
- Enhance Australia's reputation for high quality education and training
- Ensure international graduates of Australia's education and training system are highly valued by international and Australian employers
- Provide research and analysis to promote a sustainable future for an internationalised Australian education and training system by providing services such as an e-newsletter for which there will be 15,000 subscribers in 2008-09, providing 750 market newsletter alerts and maintaining the Study in Australia website.

The International Network extends to 18 economies across the world. The department has 25 offices, many based at Australian Embassies, Consulates and High Commissions overseas, and is also represented by Austrade in a further 10 European locations.

Administered activities

The department administers several programs to support the Australian Government's international education policies, including:

- *International Awards and Scholarships program* – builds enduring regional links and fosters closer educational ties and relationships between participating countries and Australia, and showcases the excellence of Australia's education, science and training systems (the program consists of: International Awards and Exchanges; Endeavour Program Scholarships; Endeavour Awards for Malaysia; Endeavour Awards for Turkey; Australian Scholarships)
- *International Education and Training Support program* – includes:
 - The Professional Services Development Program, which supports the international recognition of Australian professional qualifications and skills, and initiatives in Australia for the recognition of professional qualifications and skills gained overseas
 - The Regional Links Program, which develops relationships in the Asia-Pacific region for the benefit of Australian education and training
 - Projects to increase and develop Australia's education and training profile in Europe

- *Assessment Subsidy for Overseas Trained Professionals (ASDOT) program* – supports eligible overseas-trained professionals to obtain recognition of their professional qualifications for the purposes of registration and/or employment in Australia.

Departmental outputs

A significant proportion of international education activity is funded through departmental expenses.

The *Educational Services for Overseas Students Act 2000* (ESOS) – promotes a quality international education experience for Australian and international students by increasing opportunities for Australian students to study abroad as part of their education and by providing consumer protection mechanisms.

The department will continue initiatives to enhance global labour market recognition through improved qualifications recognition to ensure that Australia's bilateral, regional and multilateral international government relations meet our global and domestic objectives.

The department contributes to a sustainable and competitive Australian international education and training export sector by leading policy development on emerging issues and undertaking strategic research and promotional activities. The administration of the ESOS Act and its National Code, and promoting the quality of Australian education and training delivered in other countries, also play an important role in the sector's sustainability.

The department will continue to support strategic activities offshore through the DEEWR International Network, to promote the international recognition of Australia as a world leader in the provision of education and training.

Performance information for Outcome 6

Programs and initiatives delivered by the department which contribute to Outcome 6, form part of a wider set of factors that affect that Outcome. The indicators in Table 2.6A provide an indication of the overall trends under Outcome 6.

Table 2.6A: Effectiveness Indicators for Outcome 6

| |
|--|
| International Education |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in the level of national income derived from international education and training • Trends in the level of employment associated with international education and training • Trends in the number of international student enrolments with Australian institutions • Diversification within the international education and training market, including in terms of countries of origin and fields of study • Trends in the number of Australian students studying overseas • Trends in the number of international students studying for higher level qualifications |

Table 2.6B: Performance information for Administered Outputs

| Performance Measure | 2007 Estimate | 2007 Estimated actual | 2008 Estimate |
|---|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| International Education and Training | | | |
| Number of funding recipients supported by the Professional Services Development Program | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Number of projects and/or activities funded by Regional Links | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| Number of projects and/or activities funded by the "Increased profile of Australian International Education Sector" program | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Number of international scholarships, fellowships and exchange opportunities supported (Endeavour Program) | 1792 | 1481 | 1658 |
| Assessment Fee Subsidy for Overseas Trained Aust Residents | | | |
| Number of eligible clients supported | 500 | 500 | 500 |

Table 2.6C: Performance information for Departmental Outputs

| Performance Indicator | 2008-09 Estimate |
|---|--|
| Program management | |
| <i>Quantity</i> | |
| Number of registrants for Australian Education International (AEI) Industry Seminars | 700 |
| Number of quality market opportunities issued through AEI market e-newsletter alerts | 750 |
| <i>Quality</i> | |
| Payments are made in accordance with approved timelines | All programs to meet relevant administrative targets set by quality assurance processes in DEEWR |
| Payments made are based on calculations which are accurate and in accordance with approved guidelines | All programs to meet relevant administrative targets set by quality assurance processes in DEEWR |
| Timeliness of Parliamentary reports (including interim responses where appropriate) provided to Parliament and its Committees | At least 90 per cent |
| High quality Ministerial replies as measured by the level of satisfaction of Ministers and the Parliamentary Secretary with the quality and timeliness of the replies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualitative evaluation of satisfaction using feedback from the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary. • Analysis of trends over time to monitor percentage delivered within agreed timeframes. |
| Number of subscribers to the AEI Market Information Package | Monthly average: 160 organisation subscribers |
| Number of subscribers to the AEI e-newsletter | 15,000 |
| Number of visits to the AEI Study in Australia website | Monthly average number of visits: 300,000 |
| Timely and relevant information provided by AEI websites and publications | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content on AEI Online and Study In Australia Website updated at least once a year, or as required. • Country Education Profiles Online updated as planned |

Table 2.6C: Performance information for Departmental Outputs (cont)

| Performance Indicator | 2008-09 Estimate |
|---|--|
| Program management | |
| <i>Client Satisfaction</i> | |
| Satisfaction with bilateral, regional, multilateral and stakeholder relationships which augment Australia's international engagement in education and training | 80 per cent+ client satisfaction rating |
| Satisfaction with AEI Industry Seminars | 80 per cent+ satisfaction rating by participants |
| Satisfaction with AEI information in publications and websites | 80 per cent+ client satisfaction with AEI information |
| Policy Services | |
| <i>Quality</i> | |
| High quality policy advice as measured by the level of satisfaction of Ministers and the Parliamentary Secretary with the quality and timeliness of policy advice | Qualitative evaluation of satisfaction and timeliness using feedback from the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary |